

# National Congress Bulletin

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## Dear Friends: . . . .



Mrs. John E. Hayes

● May this be for you a very happy holiday season, enriched by the joy of preparations for the gathering of loved ones and friends and enlivened by pleasant surprises and happy greetings. May you yourself be exalted by prayerful observance of Christmas worship and made serene in the knowledge that your own faithful community service may have helped someone to realize greater hope of that promised peace on earth and good will toward men.

Just now you are clearing your desks of all the multitude of duties that must be out of the way before the year ends. I shall not add another duty, but rather predict that the New Year will find you eager for its challenge because you have known satisfaction in the purposefulness of your work with the Congress.

● However, as you hurry along with those uncountable duties before you, perhaps you may find a place in your thinking to help solve a very important problem—how to bring into more general realization the actual significance of Christmas in this day of doubts, fears, and conflict. From every source we hear constantly of impending disaster, of disagreement, of treachery, of unfaithfulness in high places. Together all the news makes a pretty dismal story for this pre-Christmas hour until we remember that forty-eight nations in this harassed world *did* accept the Universal Declaration of Human Rights a year ago and are today working on a Covenant of Human Rights, which will make of the Declaration a code of law with power to protect the fundamental freedoms of people in every section of the world.

● For the first time in two thousand years people of all faiths and cultures from East, West, North, and South over the globe have met to say they believe that the basic rights and freedoms of men, as individuals, must be guaranteed. They have agreed that every person shall have protection for freedom of thought and speech, freedom to work, to own property, and to worship in accordance with the dictates of his own conscience.

As we think of this phenomenon, we are drawn instinctively to remember the Wise Men who came, each from his own country, to worship the child in a manger—that Prince of Peace whose coming was heralded by the promise of peace on earth!

You who are men will agree readily that when the

spirit of Christmas is abroad charity, forbearance, and friendliness prevail much more generally in all business dealings, all commercial and professional relationships, and even among strangers. The wave of Christmas love and concern for the happiness of others surrounds all—even the doubters, the hostile, and those who are indifferent to the Christian tradition.

● We who are women find in a celebration of Christmas reverence for the Holy Child and in the glory of that reverence a new awakening to the worth of every child alive. We find also a new impulse for rededication of our devotion to purposeful work for the well-being of children. We find in the reverence of the Holy Mother a new respect for all motherhood and new hope for mothers in those lands where the voices of women, silent even for the needs of their children, may one day be raised in song—joyous Christmas song.

Christmas brings to those of us who belong to other faiths than the Christian faith a reminder of the oft-repeated sanction for full freedom of individual worship that is characteristic of nations dominantly Christian. Sometimes we hear objection to the widespread observance of the Christmas traditions in the public schools of our land because children of all faiths go to public schools. Yet all faiths share the same age-long hope for peace and good will among men—a hope that swells anew at Christmastime.

● We who come together as a family regard Christmas as the supreme hour of dedication to family unity. Every act of preparation for Christmas develops family love and devotion among its members. Every secret plan for the happiness of someone else tends to make stronger the love for our fellow men. Every act of giving reminds us of the greatest of all gifts to the world family. Every personal sacrifice for friend or stranger renders the individual less selfishly concerned with his own needs and desires. Then as the family meets in at least one religious service of dedication to God's promise made through the Holy Child, we may be ready to say:

*The peace shall come when you and I  
Can find its worth commensurate  
With will to live—or will to die  
For something good, for something great.*

*When you and I can will to give  
Our fruits of labor, skill, or fame,  
To culminate a brotherhood  
Decreed for all men in His name.*

*Then even you and I may know  
Within our hearts that holy birth  
Which promises through grace and love  
Good will to men and peace on earth.*

*Aime H. Hayes*

President  
National Congress of Parents and Teachers





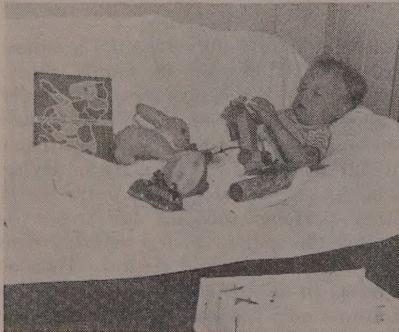
# WHAT OUR CONGRESS PARENT-TEACHER GROUPS *Are Doing*

## Preschool P.T.A. Provides Play Kits

Recovering from a long illness, such as rheumatic fever, is pleasanter for small boys and girls in Twin Falls, Idaho, these days. For they can borrow kits of toys from the toy lending library the Preschool P.T.A. has set up.

These toy kits are made up of sturdy washable playthings that have been donated by members and friends of this unit and packaged under the direction of the play kit committee. Then the kits are presented to the local health unit so they can be issued to convalescent youngsters on a weekly loan basis by the health nurses.

In addition to the playthings in each box that must be returned to the nurse before another kit can be borrowed, there is an envelope marked "This Is For You." In it are paper cutouts, small color books, magazine pictures, or other items the child may keep. Each mother receives a sheet of suggestions for entertaining shut-in youngsters and rules for the care of the loan toys.



A little shut-in investigates the toys in a play kit assembled by the Preschool P.T.A. in Twin Falls, Idaho.

## GEORGIA CONGRESS FIRST

• During her address to the Georgia convention in April 1948, Mrs. L. W. Hughes voiced the hope that the campaign for the permanent National Headquarters would soon be under way. Georgia voted immediately to take up a love offering in honor of Alice McLellan Birney, who was a native of Georgia. The delegates contributed \$165 to initiate the National Headquarters Fund.

Βασιλειώτης τῆς 78 ἔ. 'Οικιστῆς 7949

Ἀγαπᾷ καὶ αὐτὸν ἡμεῖς καὶ  
 τὸν ἀγαπῶμεν αὐτὸν ὡς ἡμεῖς  
 καὶ ὁ πατήρ. Ἦν ἡ ἀγάπη  
 ἡ ἀγαπᾷ τὸν υἱὸν καὶ ὁ  
 υἱὸς ἀγαπᾷ τὸν πατέρα καὶ  
 ὁ πατήρ ἀγαπᾷ τὸν υἱόν  
 ὡς ἡμεῖς ἀγαπᾷμεν ἁλλήλους  
 καὶ ὁ υἱὸς ὡς ἡμεῖς ἀγαπᾷμεν  
 ἁλλήλους καὶ ὁ πατήρ ὡς ἡμεῖς  
 ἀγαπᾷμεν ἁλλήλους καὶ ὁ υἱὸς  
 ὡς ἡμεῖς ἀγαπᾷμεν ἁλλήλους  
 καὶ ὁ πατήρ ὡς ἡμεῖς ἀγαπᾷμεν  
 ἁλλήλους καὶ ὁ υἱὸς ὡς ἡμεῖς  
 ἀγαπᾷμεν ἁλλήλους καὶ ὁ πατήρ  
 ὡς ἡμεῖς ἀγαπᾷμεν ἁλλήλους

Φυλὸν τὸ χεῖρ ἐσθ  
 Λεγαζίμ Περρ. Καταδωρτος  
 μαδνητὺ κτάρτιν τάρει.

● Following is a translation of the letter that is reproduced above. The little girl is referring to one of the Save the Children Federation packages that have been paid for out of the generous contributions P.T.A.'s have made to our international education project.

*Vathykilon October 18, 1949*

GS-27

*Our Dear Sponsor,*

On the part of the fifth and sixth grade of our grammar school I wish to express the deep gratitude of all my schoolmates for the paternal interest you have in us. Every time we receive gifts from you a great joy is spread on all of us for the true reason that our parents, especially now in these hard times we went and are going through, could not afford to give us things like those you sent us. We are unable to repay your kindness and therefore we write a big hearty thank you. We are all grateful to you.

*I greet you with respect  
Constantine Papadopoulos  
A pupil of the fifth grade  
of grammar school*

### Note

The school was closed for a long time on account of the rebels. The supplies were waiting for the opening of the school. They were delivered recently.

## In Memoriam

Officers and members of the National Congress have been deeply grieved at the loss of a beloved leader, Martha Sprague Mason, who passed away at her home in Winchester, Massachusetts, on November 28.

A devoted parent-teacher worker, Mrs. Mason served as first vice-president of the National Congress from 1926 to 1930 and as the able and efficient editor of the *National Parent-Teacher* from 1929 to 1937. In addition, she was the author of the book *Parents and Teachers*, which was the pioneer work on home-school cooperation. She also conducted courses on the P.T.A. at the universities of Vermont and New Hampshire and at the Wheelock School in Boston.

For her distinguished record of service to young people, their parents, and their teachers, this great believer in the value of the P.T.A. was made an honorary vice-president of the National Congress by action of the Board of Managers in September 1937.

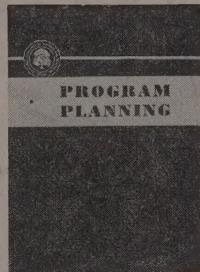
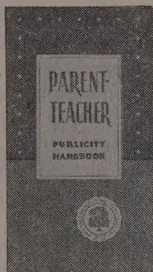
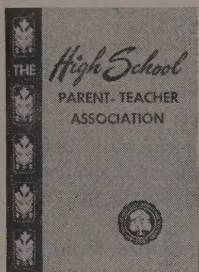
## A Trading Post Project

While the cost of outfitting boys and girls is coming down in Gaspee Plateau, Rhode Island, the school-improvement fund at the Elwood T. Wyman School is growing by leaps and bounds. The Trading Post, sponsored by the ways and means committee of the parent-teacher association, is responsible for both of these conditions.

This Trading Post, located in the school basement, is open for business every Thursday afternoon and on P.T.A. meeting nights. Parents bring in garments their youngsters have outgrown to put them on sale and then stay to look over the cleaned and wearable dresses, ski suits, skirts, pants, sweaters, and T-shirts other mothers and fathers are ready to sell at reduced cost. The contributor sets the price for each item and agrees to donate 25 per cent of what he receives to the school-improvement fund.



# PARENT-TEACHER Publications Service



**E**ACH year the National Congress of Parents and Teachers supplies many publications *free* to parent-teacher groups. The bulk of these publications are shipped to state congress offices for redistribution to local associations. No group functioning alone could afford to prepare and distribute such a vast and varied supply of authoritative, helpful material. It is only through the combined resources of all groups that necessary books and pamphlets are available to any one group. For example, very few local associations could afford to pay even the composition cost of the *Parent-Teacher Manual* and still have funds left for regular P.T.A. work. (Sometime—when you are not too busy!—ask a local printer what he would charge to print say *two copies* of the *Manual*. You will be amazed unless you are familiar with printing costs!) But when nearly six million men and women each pay five-cent dues to their national organization, part of that aggregate sum can be used to purchase printed materials at rates sufficiently low to service all groups very economically.

Since April 15, 1949, the following publications were shipped free to state congresses:

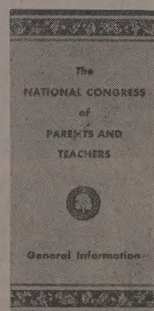
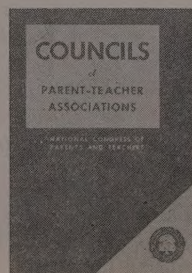
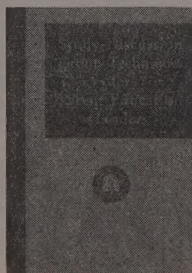
Title	Quantity	Date Shipped 1949
<i>Bylaws</i>	9,929	July 1
<i>Convention Digest</i>	4,095	June 30
<i>Councils of Parent-Teacher Associations</i>	10,232	November 16
<i>Freedom To Grow (Parent education study course leaflets)</i>	302,850*	June 8
<i>Founders Day 1950</i>	60,860*	November 10
<i>General Information</i>	173,640*	June 14
<i>Guiding Principles</i>	25,306	June 30
<i>Headquarters brochure: Together, Let Us Build</i>	72,721*	As requested
<i>High School P.T.A.</i>	10,700	September 1
<i>Home and Community Obligations (American Education Week pamphlet)</i>	99,900*	August 5
<i>How To Organize P.T.A.'s and Preschool Sections</i>	5,000	December 5
<i>Local Unit Report Blank</i>	70,000*	September 7
<i>Local Unit Remittance blank</i>	14,074	As requested
<i>Parent-Teacher Manual</i>	111,356*	May 6
<i>Parent-Teacher Manual reprints</i>	690,910*	June 16
<i>Membership cards for 1949-50</i>	7,791,332	June 2
	446,000	October 24
<i>Proceedings</i>	3,048	November 21
<i>Policies and Procedures</i>	5,000	December 15
<i>Program Planning</i>	59,807*	June 27
<i>Publications order blank</i>	75,000*	July 6
<i>Publicity Handbook</i>	59,822*	June 30
<i>School Lunch Registration Blank</i>	60,000*	As requested
<i>Schools of Instruction</i>	1,296	As requested

<i>Spanish Manual</i>	275	As requested
<i>Study-Discussion Group Techniques</i>	25,065	July 22
<i>Summer Round-Up of the Children</i>	61,445*	August 4
" " " <i>Registration Blank</i>	60,145*	October 20
" " " <i>Medical Record Form</i>	749,500*	As requested
<i>Why I Voted for My P.T.A. To Become a Unit of the National Congress</i>	234,150*	June 28
<i>You Are Needed in the P.T.A.</i>	709,600*	June 21

• The publications that are starred (\*) were supplied in quantities sufficient to provide at least one for every Congress P.T.A. and one for every district and council leader. The nonstarred items were supplied in smaller quantities to serve special needs.

• If your association has not received its share of these helpful books, pamphlets, and leaflets, please write to the state office or the state president. Your state congress is eager to let you have all the publications to which you are entitled. They do no one any good on storage shelves! However, the state office sometimes doesn't have the necessary information in order to get the materials to you. Please, therefore, make sure that proper names and addresses are filed with the state office so that there will be no delay in your receiving your share of everything that is printed for you.

• You can always find the address of your state office on your *membership card*. Incidentally have you ever stopped to take a good look at that card to see how much information it does carry. On it you will find the addresses of the National Office and of the state office. It carries the names of the national, state, and local presidents—all three of them! Printed on the back are the Objects of the organization and a reminder that your organization has an official national magazine—its own *National Parent-Teacher*. One of the most important statements on the card indicates that your membership is All-Inclusive. That means that when you join a local Congress P.T.A. you automatically become a member of the state and national organizations, thereby aligning yourself with the world's largest volunteer organization of men and women united in service to children and youth.





## PROGRAM OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE ON . . .

- Comics • Motion Pictures
- Radio • Television

THE following program to carry out the plan of action to combat the influence of unwholesome comics, motion pictures, radio and television programs was adopted by the Board of Managers of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, September 1949:

### I. By the National Congress

1. Assemble programs already worked out by the state congresses for a constructive approach to this problem; digest and disseminate data to state congresses.
2. Assemble research findings revealing the influence on children of comics, movies, radio, and television; digest and disseminate this information to state congresses.
3. Disseminate to state and local leaders a list of books and pamphlets that will help them gain a perspective and foundation for selecting and applying standards.
4. Continue to cooperate with the national lay, professional, and trade organizations.
5. Continue informing state congresses of developments as they take place in this field.
6. Investigate the publication and distribution of the more objectionable comic books to determine what action may be taken at the source.

7. Give wide publicity to the codes and standards of practice of the industries concerned.
8. Encourage the study of examples of constructive community action in dealing with comics, motion pictures, radio, and publicize the findings.

### II. By Each State Congress

1. Set up procedures to review state laws and local ordinances in regard to sale of objectionable literature, and seek community action to improve and enforce existing laws.
2. Encourage the organization of local radio listener councils, motion picture councils, and evaluating groups on comics and other publications for young people.
3. Encourage the study and evaluation of radio programs and motion pictures by students in schools.
4. Alert the membership to watch developing influence of television programs on children and the home. Urge cooperation between station managers and parents in developing wholesome program standards.
5. Work toward the establishment of a state-wide coordinating council on child welfare or a youth commission, representing all interested groups; or work with any such organization already established.

### III. By the National Congress, the State Branches, and the Local Units

Develop a positive program of juvenile protection integrating all pertinent chairmanships.

#### Action Committee:

Mrs. Joseph W. Eshelman, Chairman  
Mrs. H. Otis Howgate  
Bruce E. Mahan  
Ralph H. Ojemann

Mrs. Ruth Gagliardo  
Mrs. Keith Weigle  
Thomas D. Rishworth  
Joseph K. Folsom  
Mrs. C. F. Schmidt

## STREAMLINERS...

More and more P.T.A. units are being formed in faraway places as parents and teachers throughout the world realize how much they can accomplish by working closely together. This month we extend a hearty welcome to the Gamboa P.T.A. in Gamboa, Canal Zone, which has 41 charter members; to the Haines-Alaska P.T.A. with 28 members; to the Eielson-Alaska P.T.A. with 33; and to the P.T.A. at the Munich Dependent's School, which has a total membership of 170.

\* \* \* \*

In the drive to enroll every parent in Dade County, Florida, in a P.T.A., membership booths were even set up in the super markets and beauty shops.

\* \* \* \*

Every Tuesday night is "singing parents" night at the Washington School in Roselle, New Jersey. That's the evening the P.T.A. choral group meets to rehearse the songs it presents on numerous programs during the year.

The Arlington, Virginia, County Council has prepared a complete *Guide for the Promotion of World Understanding*.

\* \* \* \*

Boys and girls in Flint, Michigan, have been enjoying special movies each Saturday afternoon from one to three. The manager of the Michigan Theatre and the P.T.A.'s have cooperated in this project. *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm*, *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*, and some of the Mark Twain stories have been included in the list of films.

### NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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#### NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

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